

Atty. Docket No. 426989 [as amended]

REMARKS


Claims 1-30 are pending in the application. Claims 1-14 are currently amended. Claims 15-30 are new claims.

Claims 1-14 have been amended to broaden the claims while focusing more clearly on the concepts that are particularly claimed. As opposed to a preamble that recites a "necklace," the claims now recite a "strand jewelry device." Where claim 1 formerly recited a hook and loop connector, the claim now recites a "connector assembly." Bead limitations that were formerly in claim 1 have been restated in different terms in claim 15. New claims 16-30 address features of the strand jewelry device in different terms, for example, as shown and described in context of Figs. 1, 3B and 4.

There are now 30 claims and 4 independent claims. 20 total claims and 3 independent claims were paid for at the initial filing. Accordingly, the \$134 fee for 10 extra claims and 1 independent claim should be charged to Deposit Account No. 12-0600. Applicant believes no further fees are due in connection with this amendment. If any additional fee is due, please charge Deposit Account No. 12-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


Dan Cleveland, Jr., 36,106
LATHROP & GAGE L.C.
4845 Pearl East Circle, Suite 300
Boulder, CO 80301
Telephone: (720) 931-3012
Facsimile: (720) 931-3001

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Preliminary Amendment to Application Serial No. 10/623,641 entitled
Necklaces and Bracelets With Keepers